

Chairman Matheson and members of the commission;

My name is Dale Evans and I am chairman of the Mining Department at The college of Eastern Utah's division or workforce education . I am here by request from the governor's office to inform the commission what role the Division of Workforce education and the MSHA States Grants program has in training Utah's Miners.

I am a native Utahn and third generation miner with international and national experience in underground and surface mining operations.

I have been lucky to have spent most of my career working in and around the mining industry since the early 70's.

I have had many responsibilities, some of which were in management, supervision, education, and labor in both union and non union.

I have Utah Mine foreman and electrical certification as well as being an MSHA approved instructor, train the trainer, and mine electrical instructor. I have a Bachelors degree from Utah State University in Industrial and Technical Education. and earned the statis of professional miner from the Holmes Safety Association by two decades without a lost time accident. I am also a certified Mine Safety Professional and member of the international society of mine safety professionals.

CEU Mining Department.

The College of Eastern Utah's mining department operates under the Division of Workforce Education and gets support from the MSHA supported National States Grants Program, CEU, and income generated by student enrollment.

We mainly provide compliance training throughout the state for the mining industry.

We trained 1860 people during the 2006 grant year with 4 part time instructors and two full time instructors. Within the last year students from England, 16 states and 21 counties have came to us for training. We also travel throughout the state when requested. Over 480 people from outside our local region (carbon, emery, San Juan and Grand counties) were either trained at our facilities or we traveled to theirs.

National States Grants Program

The purpose of the National States Grants Program is aimed at preventing mine accidents and job related diseases in the mining industry by cooperating with and providing assistance to the States in providing for Miner Safety and Health Training.

The grantees provide Annual Refresher Training, New Miner Training, and Newly Hired Experienced Miner training to miners and contractors throughout the nation.

Under the National States grants program, training is conducted in 49 states, the Navajo Nation and Puerto Rico.

There was 8.2 million dollars funded for State Grants in fiscal year 2007

On the average the grantees train more than 200,000 miners and contractors each year.

State Grant Program for Utah

Under the Utah grant program, training is offered statewide for all types of mining.

Our mission is to provide proper and effective training to improve the Health and Safety of our miners **and to work toward the day when every miner goes home safe and healthy to family and friends.**

We believe that the most important tool a miner takes with him is his knowledge and good judgement.

Our objectives are to provide instruction to active and prospective miners at low cost.

(personalized, open-entry/closed-exit, competency-based, and lecture based instruction)

We offer compliance training and assistance so miners can keep their jobs. Non-compliance courses are geared to prepare mining professionals for certification and job upgrades.

There was approx. \$164,000 funded for Utah in fiscal year 2006 (\$25,000 went to the labor commission to finance the coal miner's certification program.)

1860 miners and contractors were trained by our states grants program during the 2006 grant year.

Our training and retraining is done by MSHA approved

Training that we do includes:

- (16 hour) Surface New Miner Training; (32 hour) UG New Miner
- (8 hour) Annual Refresher; and
- (20 hour) Mine Rescue Training part 49
- (24 hour) Train the Trainer
- (15 week) Mine Foreman/fireboss preparation for state Cert.
- (15 week) Initial Electrical preparation for state Cert
- (8 hr) Electrical recertification
- Special Problems (subjects are customized and available to meet the of the operators)

- EMT, First aid and CPR
 - EMT Basic Certification
 - First Responder
 - Responding to Emergencies
 - EMT Recertification
 - Basic CPR
 - Basic First Aid
 - Basic First Aid/CPR
 - Professional Rescue CPR

In addition to training the department is involved with other activities

- We are active members of the Rocky Mountain Mine Rescue Association. Each year we host the annual coal mine rescue contest. This year was the 31st year it has been held.
- We work with the Labor Commission and the Miner Certification programs
- We host Workshops held by the Miner's Hospital
- We work closely with MSHA's Educational Field Service specialist.

We are required to teach varied subjects such as;

- miner's rights and responsibilities,
- emergency evacuation principles
- fire fighting,
- accident prevention,
- ground control including roof and rib hazard recognition,
- fall protection,
- power haulage,
- electrical hazards,
- guarding
- Health (silicosis & hearing loss prevention),
- self rescuer and respiratory protection,
- substance abuse,
- first aid ,
- rigging safety,
- welding hazards,
- hazard recognition,
- mine gasses,
- hazardous communications
- explosives
- other site specific

On-site training it is designed to include site specific hazards and participation from the representatives of the operator. Before training begins, a consultation with the mine operator is done. The training program is adapted to address their needs.

The Governor has asked the Commission to make policy recommendations on how the State should promote mine safety, including legislative changes at the state and/or federal levels.

State grant program are expected to meet the highest standards for training in the Nation

The funding for the national grants program was 6 million for 36 states in 1980. 27 years later it is now 8.2 million for 49 states, the Navajo Nation, and Puerto Rico. Each year the piece of the pie is smaller. We are not well funded for the amount of training and assistance that needs to be done. As a result, part of the slack has been picked up by independent trainers.

Give Utah miners the opportunity to be the best trained workforce in the nation. Raise the bar for Mine training in Utah and exceed MSHA's minimum requirements. Other states do it.

Effective training is critical to the miner's health and safety. A safe and productive workforce starts with well trained employees.

I recommend that the state buy into Mine safety and health training by providing financial support to help enhance and expand the state grant program.

Help it grow from an operation with part time staff and limited resources to one that is properly equipped and staffed.

Insure that low cost training or assistance is available to every operator, miner and contractor statewide.

Provide a forum so miners concerns can be addressed and acted on. Have an ongoing Mining advisory council that includes input from miners, contractors, operators, organizations, state and federal agencies, learning institutions, trainers, and the state grants program.

Eliminate inadequate training and trainers

Upgrade training by financing projects

- a mine simulated lab

- Mine rescue training facilities

- Travel and outreach programs

- Electrical training

- Mine Foreman Fireboss recertification

With the states help we can provide proper and effective training to improve the Health and Safety of our miners and to work toward the day when every miner goes home safe and healthy to family and friends.

Thank you letting me speak to you today. I look forward to answering your question and working with the committee to continue to improve mine safety and health through training.